

Message Text

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8876

INFO AMCONSUL GUAYAQUIL

AMEMBASSY BOGOTA

AMEMBASSY LIMA

C O N F I D E N T I A L QUITO 0899

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, EC

SUBJECT:FOREIN POLICY STATEMENT BY FONMIN ARMANDO PESANTES

REF: 75 QUITO 6815

1. BEGIN SUMMARY: ON JANUARY 28 NEWLY-APPOINTED GOE FOREIGN MINISTER ARMANDO PESANTES ISSUED A WRITTEN POLICY PAPER DETAILING THE COURSE OF ECUADOREAN FOREIGN POLICY UNDER THE NEW GOVERNMENT. THE POLICY STATEMENT, WIDELY REPORTED IN THE PRESS ON JANUARY 29, INDICATES NO MAJOR POLICY CHANGES, BUT DOES SEEM TO INDICATE CERTAIN SHIFTS IN EMPHASIS. PESANTES RESTATED GOE SUPPORT FOR THE UN, THE OAS, SELA, UNCTAD, THE 200-MILE TERRITORIAL SEA AND THE PECEFUL SETTLEMENT OF DISPUTES. HE GAVE PARTICULAR IMPORTANCE TO REGAINING ECUADOR'S STATUS AS AN "AMAZONIC" COUNTRY THROUGH A SUCCESSFUL SETTLEMENT OF EUCADOR'S BORDER DISPUTE WITH PERU, AND SEEMED TO INDICATE GOE SUPPORT FOR OAS REFORM BASED ON STUDIES MADE DURING THE PAST THREE YEARS. THE U.S. TRADE ACT WAS CONDEMNED AS COERCIVE AND DISCRIMINATORY. FINALLY, A STATEMENT CONCERNING THE INDISPENSABLE COOPERATION OF THE US AND LATIN AMERICA

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MADE IN CONNECTION WITH OAS REORGANIZATION SEEMS TO US

ENCOURAGING. END SUMMARY.

2. ON JANUARY 28, THE NEWLY-APPOINTED GOE FOREIGN MINISTER, ARMANDO PESANTES, RELEASED A WRITTEN POLICY STATEMENT DETAILING SPECIFIC POINTS OF THE NEW GOVERNMENT'S FOREIGN POLICY. THE PESANTES' STATEMENT RECEIVED WIDE PRESS COVERAGE JANUARY 29.

3. THE MINISTER'S POLICY PAPER:

A. EMPHASIZED THE ESSENTIAL CONTINUITY AND PERMANENCE OF ECUADOREAN FOREIGN POLICY, "ALTHOUGH IT IS NATURALLY SUBJECT TO BE ADAPTED TO THE PROBLEMS OF AN EVOLVING SOCIETY IN THE MODERN WORLD;"

B. RECONFIRMED THE GOE'S DEDICATION TO THE SELF-DETERMINATION OF PEOPLES, RESPECT FOR INTEGRITY AND INDEPENDENCE, OPPOSITION TO COLONIALISM AND TERRITORIAL CONQUEST, ADHERENCE TO THE JURIDICAL EQUALITY OF STATES AND TO THE PRINCIPLE OF THE PEACEFUL AND JURIDICAL RESOLUTION OF DISPUTES;

C. CONDEMNED THE USE OF POLITICAL, ECONOMIC OR MILITARY COERCION IN RELATIONSHIPS BETWEEN NATIONS;

D. REITERATED THE GOE'S SUPPORT FOR THE UNITED NATIONS GENERALLY AND SPECIFICALLY NOTED EUCADOR'S INTENTION TO CONTINUE ITS PARTICIPATION IN THE UN CONFERENCE ON THE LAW OF THE SEA, IN ORDER TO WORK FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A NEW JURIDICAL FRAMEWORK ON MARITIME MATTERS;

E. STRONGLY RECONFIRMED EUCADOR'S COMMITMENT TO THE 200 MILE TERRITORIAL SEA AND INDICATED THAT THE GOE WILL CONTINUE ITS CONSULTATION AND COORDINATION ON THIS MATTER WITH THE "TERRITORIAL GROUP" AT THE UN CONFERENCE;

F. CONFIRMED ECUADOR'S COMMITMENT TO THE NEW ECONOMIC ORDER AND REJECTED ANY "COERCIVE OR DISCRIMINATORY ACT OR MEASURE THAT IMPEDES OR LIMITS ITS DEVELOPMENT AND SOVEREIGN ACTION, SUCH AS THE UNITED STATES TRADE ACT;"

G. EXPRESSED THE "SINGULAR IMPORTANCE WITH WHICH THE GOE

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VIEWS THE MEETING OF THE FOURTH CONFERENCE OF UNCTAD THAT IS TO BE HELD NEXT MAY IN NAIROBI AND THE PREPARATORY MEETING IN MANILA FEBRUARY 2. ECUADOR WILL ADVANCE AND DEFEND THESES WHOSE OBJECTIVES ARE TO OBTAIN "FOR THE COUNTRIES OF THE THIRD WORLD," A MORE JUST TREATMENT IN ORDER TO GAIN A GREATER PARTICIPATION IN INTERNATIONAL COMMERCE.

4. PESANTES, IN RATHER STRONG TERMS, INDICATED THAT THE GOE

IS COMMITTED TO OAS REFORM AND TO ACTIVE US PARTICIPATION IN THAT ORGANIZATION. HE EXPRESSED THE HOPE THAT UPCOMING CHARTER REFORM WILL MAKE THE ORGANIZATION AN EFFECTIVE INSTRUMENT OF

HEMISPHERIC ACTION IN ACCORD WITH THE REQUIREMENTS OF THE MOMENT AND THAT THEY (THE REFORMERS) WILL HAVE THUSLY ASSURED THE INDISPENSABLE COOPERATION OF THE U.S. AND LATIN AMERICA." IN COMMENTING ON THE REFORM STUDIES ALREADY UNDERTAKEN, PESANTES SAID THAT "FOLLOWING THREE YEARS OF PATIENT AND ARDUOUS WORK, FORMULAS HAVE BEEN ELABORATED THAT IN THEIR ESSENCE REFLECT THE ASPIRATIONS AND NEEDS OF THE COUNTRIES SOUTH OF THE RIO GRANDE." HE EXPRESSED THE HOPE THAT "THE U.S., WITH AN ADEQUATE COMPREHENSION OF SUCH ASPIRATION AND NEEDS, ... WILL OFFER ITS SUPPORT FOR SUCH FORMULAS."

5. THE LATIN AMERICAN ECONOMIC SYSTEM (SELA) AND THE ANDEAN PACT, ACCORDING TO PESANTES, WILL ALSO CONTINUE TO RECEIVE GOE SUPPORT.

6. THE PESANTES STATEMENT CONFIRMED THE GOE'S "UNEQUIVOCAL" INISISTENCE ON THE "RECOGNITION " OF THE COUNTRY'S "AMAZONIC SOVEREIGNTY." THE FOEGIGN MINISTRY WILL INCREASE ITS CONVERSTATIONS WITH ITS PERUVIAN COUNTERPART SO THAT "IN AN ATMOSPHERE OF INCREASING CONFIDENCE, OF MUTUAL RESPECT; AND OF RECIPROCAL UNDERSTANDING WITHOUT MORE DELAY, THIS BASIC PROBLEM IN ECUADOREAN/PERUVIAN RELATIONS CAN BE BROUGHT TO ITS DEFINITIVE AND REALISTIC SOLUTION."

7. COMMENT: IN COMPARING THE PRESANTES STATEMENT WITH EARLIER GOE FOREUGBPOLICY PRONOUNCEMENTS IT BECOMES APPARENT THAT, AS THE MINISTER SAID, CURRENT POLICY IS BASICALLY A CONTINUATION OF THAT ALREADY ESTABLISHED. HOWEVER, THE COMPARISON ALSO CONFIDENTIAL

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INDICATES SEVERAL POSSIBLE CHANGES IN EMPHASIS.

8. IN A POLICY ADDRESS MADE SEPTEMBER 10, 1975, INCOMING FOEIGN MINISTER GENERAL CARLOS AGUIRRE (SEE 75 QUITO 6815) SINGLED OUT THE COUNTRY'S RELATIONSHIP WITH COLOMBIA FOR A VERY HIGH PRIORITY. THE PESANTES PAPER IGNORED COLOMBIA (PROBABLY BECAUSE COLOMBIAN/ECUADOREAN RELATIONS ARE GOOD) BUT DETAILED THE NEED TO RESOLVE FINALLY THE BORDER QUESTION WITH PERU. WHILE THE LITANY OF EUCADOR'S RIGHT TO BE AN "AMAZONIC" COUNTRY IS LEARNED BY EVERY ECUADOREAN SCHOOLBOY, IS INSCRIBED IN STONE ON GOVERNMENT BUILDINGS, AND THE ANNIVERSARY OF THE 1942 RIO PROTOCOL (BY WHICH PERU WAS AWARDED LARGE PORTIONS OF ECUADOREAN TERRITORY) GENERALLY BRINGS STUDENT PROTESTS, THIS IS THE FIRST TIME IN RECENT MEMORY IN WHICH THE GOE HAS PUBICLY ESTABLISHED THE PRIORITY OF NEGOTIATING A FINAL

AGREEMENT WITH PERU WHICH WILL RETURN ECUADOR'S "AMAZONIC" LANDS. THIS EFFORT BY THE GOE MAY HAVE, AT LEAST PARTIALLY, RESULTED FROM BOLIVIA'S RECENT SUCCESSFUL INITIATIVES TOWARD NEGOTIATING AN OUTLET TO THE SEA FROM CHILE.

9. WE SHOULD ALSO NOTE THE STRONG CONDEMNATION OF THE US TRADE ACT. PESANTES CONDEMNS ALL "COERCIVE OR DISCRIMINATORY ACTS OR MEASURES THAT IMPEDE OR LIMIT...DEVELOPMENT AND SOVEREIGN ACTION" BUT GIVES ONLY THE U.S. TRADE ACT AS AN EXAMPLE. THIS PROVIDES YET ANOTHER INDICATION THAT THE GOE CONTINUES COMMITTED TO OVERCOME ITS EXCLUSION FROM THE ACT'S SYSTEM OF PREFERENCES.

10. ON THE OAS, THE DEPARTMENT WILL RECALL THE GOE'S NONCOMMITTAL REPLY TO DEPUTY REPRESENTATIVE TO THE OAS ROBERT WHITE'S SUGGESTION THAT ECUADOR JOIN THE U.S. IN DEPARTING FROM THE RECOMMENDATIONS FOR OAS REFORM DEVELOPED BY OAS COMMITTEE DURING THE PAST THREE YEARS. PESANTES' REMARKS SEEM TO INDICATE THAT THE GOE BELIEVES THE PAST THREE YEARS HAVE PRODUCED SUITABLE FORMULAS FOR REFORM AND THAT ECUADOR WILL FAVOR REFORM BASED ON THOSE FORMULAS.

11. FINALLY, THE STRONG STATEMENT CONCERNING "THE INDISPENSABLE COOPERATION OF THE UNITED STATES AND LATIN AMERICA" SEEMS TO US ENCOURAGING. THIS STATEMENT, PLUS OTHERS MADE IN THE PRESENCE OF MISSION OFFICERS, PROVIDES PRELIMINARY EVIDENCE THAT
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THE NEW GOVERNMENT, MAY BE MORE DISPOSED TOWARD GOOD RELATIONSHIPS WITH THE U.S. THAN WAS THE GOVERNMENT OF RODRIGUEZ LARA.

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